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Jury finds Trump liable for sexual abuse, awards accuser \$5M

By L. NEUMEISTER, J. PELTZ and M. R. SISAK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury found Donald Trump liable Tuesday for sexually abusing advice columnist E. Jean Carroll in 1996, awarding her \$5 million in a judgment that could haunt the former president as he campaigns to regain the White House.

The verdict adds to Trump's legal woes and offers vindication to Carroll, whose allegations had been mocked and dismissed by Trump for years. She nodded as the verdict was announced in a federal courtroom in New York City just a few hours after deliberations had begun. She hugged supporters and smiled through tears. Jurors also found Trump liable for defaming Carroll after she made her allegations public. Trump chose not to attend the civil trial and was absent when the verdict was read. Trump's lawyer, Joseph Tacopina, shook hands with Carroll and hugged her lawyer, Roberta Kaplan. As the courtroom cleared, Carroll could be heard laughing and crying.



In this courtroom sketch, Judge Lewis Kaplan reads the jury instructions prior to their deliberations in Manhattan federal court, Tuesday, May 9, 2023, in New York, in a lawsuit brought by columnist E. Jean Carroll, who alleges that Donald Trump raped her in a luxury Manhattan department store in 1996.

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press



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Jury finds Trump liable for sexual abuse, awards accuser \$5M

Continued from Front

Trump immediately lashed out with a statement on his social media site, claiming again that he does not know Carroll and referring to the verdict as "a disgrace" and "a continuation of the greatest witch hunt of all time." He promised to appeal.

The trial's outcome was a validation for Carroll, one of more than a dozen women who have accused Trump of sexual assault or harassment. She went public in 2019 with her allegation that the Republican raped her in the dressing room of a posh Manhattan department store.

Trump, 76, denied it, saying he never encountered Carroll at the store and did not know her. He has called her a "nut job" who invented "a fraudulent and false story" to sell a memoir. Carroll, 79, had sought unspecified damages, plus a retraction of what she said were Trump's defamatory denials of her claims.



E. Jean Carroll, center, walks out of Manhattan federal court, Tuesday, May 9, 2023, in New York. Associated Press

The trial revisited the lightning-rod topic of Trump's conduct toward women.

Carroll gave multiple days of frank, occasionally emotional testimony, buttressed by two friends who told jurors she reported the alleged attack to them in the moments and day afterward.

Jurors also heard from Jessica Leeds, a former stockbroker who testified that Trump abruptly groped her against her will on an airplane in the 1970s, and from Natasha Stoyanoff, a writer who said Trump forcibly kissed her against her will while she was interviewing him for a 2005 article.

The six-man, three-woman jury also saw the well-known 2005 "Access Hollywood" hot mic recording of Trump talking about kissing and grabbing women without asking.

The Associated Press typically does not name people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly, as Carroll, Leeds and Stoyanoff have done.

The verdict comes as Trump is facing an accelerating swirl of legal risks.

He's fighting a New York criminal case related to hush money payments made to a porn actor. The state attorney general has sued him, his family and his business over alleged financial wrongdoing.

Trump is also contending with investigations elsewhere into his possible mishandling of classified documents, his actions after the 2020 election and his activities during the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Trump denies wrongdoing in all of those matters.

Carroll, who penned an Elle magazine advice column for 27 years, has also written for magazines and "Saturday Night Live." She and Trump were in social circles that overlapped at a 1987 party, where a photo documented them and their then-spouses interacting. Trump has said

he doesn't remember it. According to Carroll, she ended up in a dressing room with Trump after they ran into each other at Bergdorf Goodman on an unspecified Thursday evening in spring 1996.

They took an impromptu jaunt to the lingerie department so he could search for a women's gift, and soon were teasing each other about trying on a skimpy bodysuit, Carroll testified. To her, it seemed like comedy, something like her 1986 "Saturday Night Live" sketch in which a man admires himself in a mirror.

But then, she said, Trump slammed the door, pinned her against a wall, planted his mouth on hers, yanked her tights down and raped her as she tried to break away. Carroll said she ultimately pushed him off with her knee and immediately left the store.

"I always think back to why I walked in there to get myself in that situation," she testified, her voice breaking, "but I'm proud to say I did get out."

She soon confided in two friends, according to her and them. But she never called police or told anyone else — or noted it in her diary — until her memoir was published in 2019. Carroll said she kept silent out of fear that Trump would retaliate, out of shame and out of a sense that other people quietly denigrate rape victims and see them as somewhat responsible for being attacked. Trump weighed in on the case from afar, branding it "a made up SCAM" in a social media post early in the trial. U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan called the comments "entirely inappropriate" and warned that the ex-president could cause himself more legal woes if he kept it up. Tacopina told the jury Carroll made up her claims after hearing about a 2012 "Law and Order" episode in which a woman is raped in the dressing room of the lingerie section of a Bergdorf Goodman store. □

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U.S. troops arrive at border as migration curbs set to end

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and
TARA COPP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

About 550 U.S. active duty troops have begun arriving along the U.S.-Mexico border in the first group of military support ahead of an expected increase of migrants, U.S. defense officials said Tuesday.

The movement of troops is part of efforts to beef up security along the southern border as the U.S. prepares for the end of immigration restrictions linked to the coronavirus pandemic. Those restrictions are set to expire Thursday, leading to concerns about whether that will result in an increase in migrants trying to enter the U.S. starting Friday.

The forces will mainly be used to help monitor and watch the border, or do data entry and support, and are "not there in any way to be interacting with migrants," said Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary. The goal is to free up U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel to do law enforcement activities.

"They needed assistance performing some of those back shop type requirements so that they can focus on the law enforcement aspect of this," Ryder said.

At least some of the active duty troops will be used near El Paso, Texas, he said, while adding that CBP will decide where forces will go.

More than 900 additional soldiers, Marines and airmen will follow around the end of May. The initial plan calls for a temporary 90-day deployment of the active duty forces, because they can be moved much more quickly to the border than National Guard or Reserve troops.

U.S. and international law give migrants the right to seek asylum. However, the U.S. has used Title 42 of a public health law to expel migrants with no chance at asylum 2.8 million times since March 2020 on the



Colombian migrants that were trying to evade U.S. Border Patrol wait to be processed near the port of entry in Hidalgo, Texas, Thursday, May 4, 2023.

Associated Press

who cross illegally and by creating new pathways meant to offer alternatives to a dangerous and often deadly journey.

Some locations across the border are already seeing an influx of migrants, often spurred by false information from smugglers or widespread rumors about what the Title 42 changes will mean for their chances of being able to remain in the U.S.

Agents in the Border Patrol's relatively quiet El Centro, California, sector stopped about 260 migrants a day over a four or five day period through Sunday, up from about 90 a day the previous week, said Gregory Bovino, the sector chief. □

grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The Biden administration has said that it is ready to deal with whatever happens after Title 42's use ends, although it has also repeatedly criticized Congress for not making changes to the country's immigration system.

"We believe we have a robust process to deal with what is going to occur after Title 42 lifts. Again, we're using the tools that are available to us because Congress refuses to do their job as it relates to the border," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Tuesday.

Roughly 2,500 National Guard members are already spread across all sectors of the border, providing an array of support to CBP, including monitoring, detection and air transportation.

Separately, Texas National Guard troops are also working along the border under state authority. Ryder said the active duty troops will be doing an entirely separate mission.

Even with the COVID-19 asylum restrictions still in place, the administration has seen record numbers of people crossing the border. President Joe Biden has responded by cracking down on those

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U.S. regulators OK spent nuclear fuel facility in New Mexico

By **SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN**

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— U.S. nuclear regulators licensed a multibillion-dollar complex to temporarily store tons of spent nuclear fuel in New Mexico from commercial power plants around the nation, a decision likely to be challenged in court.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued its decision Tuesday, saying it will allow the energy company Holtec International to build and operate the facility in southeastern New Mexico. New Jersey-based Holtec may still need to acquire permits from the state, and top New Mexico officials have vowed to fight the project.

Hot and highly radioactive, spent fuel consists of uranium pellets inside metal rods. It can only be handled by machines and people have to be physically shielded from it, usually by steel or concrete.

The New Mexico project would have capacity to temporarily store up to 8,680 metric tons of used



An illustration depicts a planned interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel in southeastern New Mexico as officials announce plans to pursue a project by Holtec International during a news conference in Albuquerque, N.M., on April 29, 2015.

uranium fuel. Future expansion could make room for as many as 10,000 canisters over six decades. The material would be transported to New Mexico via rail.

Critics say most would be brought from East Coast sites, prompting concern after recent railway accidents involving other chemicals and cargo.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and the state's congressional delegation say they fear New Mexico will become the nation's dumping ground for spent nuclear fuel because the federal government has no permanent solution for the waste piling up at commercial reactors around the country. New Mexico ap-

proved legislation in March aimed at stopping the project. "Today's actions by the NRC illustrate the importance of New Mexico's new prohibition on the storage and disposal of high-level nuclear waste. It's time that our voice be heard and honored, and that this project be shut down," said state Sen. Jeff

Steinborn, a Democrat who sponsored the measure.

Holtec has argued that the New Mexico measure is pre-empted by federal law and that a court fight would only delay the economic boon that would come from building the complex.

The company has spent an estimated \$80 million pursuing the 40-year license to build and operate the facility.

"This milestone is the culmination of an eight-year process to bring a safe, secure, temporary and retrievable private facility to help the nation's spent fuel storage dilemma," Holtec said in a statement thanking regulators.

Since the federal government has failed to build a permanent repository, it reimburses utilities to house the fuel in either steel-lined concrete pools of water or in steel and concrete containers known as casks at sites in nearly three dozen states. The cost of that practice is expected to stretch into the tens of billions of dollars over the next decade. □

Associated Press

U.S. busts Russian cyber operation in dozens of countries

By **ERIC TUCKER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)

— The Justice Department said Tuesday that it had disrupted a long-running Russian cyberespionage campaign that infected computer networks in dozens of countries, including in the United States, and resulted in the theft of sensitive information from governments. Prosecutors linked the spying operation to a unit of Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, and accused the hackers of stealing documents from hundreds of computer systems belonging to governments of NATO members, an unidentified journalist for a U.S. news organization who reported on Russia, and other select targets of interest to the Kremlin.

"For 20 years, the FSB has relied on the Snake mal-

ware to conduct cyberespionage against the United States and our allies that ends today," Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen, the head of the Justice Department's National Security Division, said in a statement.



Russian RS-24 Yars ballistic missiles drive along the embankment next to the Kremlin wall after the Victory Day military parade in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, May 9, 2023, marking the 78th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The specific targets were not named in court papers, but the Justice Department said the affected networks were in more than 50 countries. U.S. officials described the espionage campaign as "very consequential," saying the hackers had

successfully exfiltrated sensitive documents from NATO countries.

Prosecutors say the hackers, employing malicious software known as Snake, routed data stolen from foreign governments through compromised computers in the U.S. as a way to cover their tracks. They operated from what the Justice Department said was a known FSB facility in Ryazan, Russia. In a separate statement, CrowdStrike Intelligence, a private cybersecurity firm that has studied the threat, said the sectors targeted by the hacking included government organizations, defense-related organizations and companies developing cryptographic hardware. It said countries all over the world had been affected, including in Europe, Australia, part of Asia and North and South

America. U.S. officials said they'd been investigating Snake for about a decade and came to regard it as the most sophisticated malware implant relied on by the Russian government for espionage campaigns. They said Turla, the FSB unit believed responsible for the malware, had refined and revised it multiple times as a way to avoid being shut down. The Justice Department, using a warrant this week from a federal judge in Brooklyn, launched what it said was a high-tech operation using a specialized tool called Perseus that caused the malware to effectively self-destruct.

Federal officials said they were confident that, based on the impact of its operation this week, the FSB would not be able to reconstitute the malware implant. □

Associated Press

EU takes aim at countries helping Russia to avoid sanctions

By LORNE COOK

Associated Press

Brussels (AP) — A top European Union official on Tuesday urged the 27 member nations to take trade measures against countries that help the Kremlin to circumvent the bloc's sanctions against Russia, sparking a warning from China that it would retaliate if targeted. During a visit to Kyiv, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the measures - which would set a new precedent for EU action - should be part of a fresh round of Russia sanctions which the member countries are discussing. "We recently see a growth of highly unusual trade flows through the European Union and certain third countries. These goods then end up in Russia," von der Leyen said, standing alongside Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. She did not name the countries, but EU officials have raised concerns about certain flows of goods through China and Iran for some time. "If we see that goods are going from the European Union to third countries and then end up in Russia, we could propose to the member states to sanction those



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, right, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen attend their press conference in Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

Associated Press

goods," von der Leyen told reporters. All 27 members must approve any sanctions unanimously. Over the last several months, von der Leyen's commission has become responsible for proposing what sanction action to take, leaving the member countries to thrash out their differences, sometimes over several weeks. "This tool will be a last resort and it will be used cautiously following a very diligent risk analysis and

after approval by EU member states. But there should be no doubt that we work against sanctions circumvention," she said. China's foreign minister said Beijing would respond strongly if the EU took steps against Chinese companies doing legitimate business in Russia. Speaking after a meeting with his German counterpart in Berlin, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang said Beijing has laws forbidding arms deliveries to crisis

regions. At the same time, he insisted that "exchange and cooperation between Chinese and Russian companies" should not be interfered with. "We are strictly against some countries using their own domestic laws, their long arm jurisdiction, to impose one-sided sanctions against China," Qin said, according to an official interpreter. "In such a case, we would also react strongly to this and defend the legitimate in-

terests of our country and our companies." German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock stressed that any sanctions would target specific companies, not countries, that supply Russian arms manufacturers with critical components including so-called dual use goods. "This is not directed at any specific country, but rather it is directed in particular at these sanctioned goods," she told reporters in Berlin. "But we expect of everyone, including of China, that they put pressure on their companies accordingly." The EU has imposed 10 rounds of sanctions on Russia since President Vladimir Putin ordered his forces into Ukraine on Feb. 24. Banks, companies and markets have been hit even parts of the sensitive energy sector.

Well over 1,000 officials are subject to asset freezes and travel bans. Much work has involved closing loopholes so that goods vital to Putin's war effort do not get through. However, it is the first time that plans have been announced to target trade via other countries, apart from sanctions against Iranians alleged to be supplying drones to Russia. □

Israeli security agency defends use of threatening messages

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency is defending its use of a sophisticated surveillance tool that was used to send threatening text messages to Palestinian protesters during unrest at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site two years ago. A leading civil rights group has asked Israel's Supreme Court to halt the practice, saying the threatening messages exceeded the authorities of the Shin Bet. It has also noted that the messages were sent erroneously to people uninvolved in the unrest. In a May 4 submission, the Shin Bet asked the court to

dismiss the case. It said the tracking technology was a legitimate tool within the scope of its authority.



A worshipper stands in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the Old City of Jerusalem, Jan. 29, 2022, and holds his mobile phone showing a threatening message. The May 2021 text, signed "Israeli intelligence," reads: "Hello! You have been spotted as having participated in acts of violence in Al-Aqsa Mosque, and we will hold you accountable."

Associated Press

It described the misfired messages as an isolated error, said it had identified "several specific flaws in the manner of sending the messages" and updated its guidelines to prevent similar mistakes in the future. It described the tool as "proportionate, balanced and most reasonable." The messages were sent to hundreds of Palestinians in May 2021 at the height of one of the city's most turbulent periods in recent years. At the time, Palestinian protesters were clashing with Israeli police at the Al Aqsa Mosque in violence that helped fuel an 11-day war between Israel and the Hamas militant group in the Gaza Strip.

Using mobile-phone tracking technology, the Shin Bet sent a text message to people it believed were involved in the clashes and told them "we will hold you accountable" for acts of violence. The recipients included both Palestinian residents of east Jerusalem, who hold Israeli residency rights, as well as Palestinian citizens of Israel. While some recipients had participated in the clashes, others, including people who lived, worked or prayed in the area, received the message erroneously and said they were surprised or scared. Jewish Israelis in the area are not known to have received the message. □

Pakistan's ex-PM Imran Khan arrested, sparking violence

By **MUNIR AHMED** and **RI-AZAT BUTT**

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan was arrested and dragged from court Tuesday as he appeared to face charges in multiple graft cases, a dramatic escalation of political tensions that sparked violent demonstrations by his angry supporters across the country.

The arrest of Khan, who was ousted in a no-confidence vote in April 2022 but remains the leading opposition figure, represented the latest confrontation to roil Pakistan, which has seen former prime ministers arrested over the years and interventions by its powerful military.

At least one person was reported killed in clashes between protesters and the military in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province, with another five people wounded there, while about 15 injuries were reported amid similar violence in Karachi, Peshawar, Rawalpindi and Lahore. Police fired tear gas to disperse demonstrations.

Amid the violence, officials at Pakistan's telecommunication authority said regulators blocked social media, including Twitter, and internet service was suspended in the capital of Islamabad and other cities. Classes at some private schools were canceled for Wednesday.

Khan was removed from the Islamabad High Court by security agents from the National Accountability Bureau, said Fawad Chaudhry, a senior official with his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, and then shoved into an armored car and whisked away.

Chaudhry denounced the arrest of the 71-year-old former cricket star as "an abduction." Pakistan's independent GEO TV broadcast video of Khan being hauled away.

A scuffle broke out between Khan's supporters and police outside the



Protected by a bulletproof barrier, former Prime Minister Imran Khan speaks during a rally in Lahore, Pakistan, Sunday, March 26, 2023.

court. Some of Khan's lawyers and supporters were injured in the melee, as were several police, Chaudhry said.

Khan was taken to the garrison city of Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, for questioning at the offices of the National Accountability Bureau, according to police and government officials. He also was to undergo a routine medical checkup, police said.

Khan had arrived at the Islamabad High Court from nearby Lahore, where he lives, to face charges in the graft cases.

He has denounced the cases against him, which include terrorism charges, as a politically motivated plot by his successor, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, saying his ouster was illegal and a Western conspiracy. Khan has campaigned against Sharif and demanded early elections.

Tuesday's arrest was based on a new warrant from the National Accountability Bureau obtained last week in a separate graft case for which Khan had not been granted bail. His lawyers challenged the legality of the arrest, but the court upheld it, although it added that Khan should not have been forcibly removed from the courtroom. Khan

is scheduled to appear at an anti-graft tribunal on Wednesday, officials said.

"Imran Khan has been arrested because he was being sought in a graft case," Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan told a news conference. He alleged Pakistan's treasury had lost millions of dollars while Khan was in office due to illegal purchases of lands from a business tycoon.

The National Accountability Bureau is Pakistan's powerful anti-corruption organization that has detained and investigated former officials, including prime ministers, politicians and retired military officers. But some view the NAB as a tool used by those in power, especially the military, to crack down on political opponents. When Khan was in power, his government arrested Sharif, then the opposition leader, through the NAB.

At a news conference, Law Minister Azam Tarar said Khan was arrested because he was not cooperating with the investigations. He also denounced the violence by Khan supporters, saying that protests must remain peaceful.

"It should have not happened," he said, shortly after TV video emerged of burning vehicles and dam-

aged public property in parts of the country.

Authorities said they have banned rallies in the eastern province of Punjab.

As the news of the arrest spread, about 4,000 of Khan's supporters stormed the official residence of the top regional commander in Lahore, smashing windows and doors, damaging furniture and staging a sit-in as troops there retreated to avoid violence. The protesters also burned police vehicles and blocked key roads.

Protesters also smashed the main gate of the army's headquarters in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, where troops exercised restraint. Hundreds of demonstrators shouted pro-Khan slogans as they moved toward the sprawling building.

In the port city of Karachi, police swung batons and fired tear gas to disperse hundreds of Khan supporters who had gathered on a key road.

Raouf Hasan, another leader from Khan's party, told Al Jazeera English television that the arrest is "blatant interference in the judicial affairs by the powers-that-be."

Hasan added that Khan "was virtually abducted from the court of law."

Khan's arrest came hours after he issued a video message before heading to Islamabad, saying he was "mentally prepared" for arrest there.

Khan was wounded by a gunman at a rally in November, an attack that killed one of his supporters and wounded 13. He has insisted, without offering any evidence, that there is a plot to assassinate him, alleging that Pakistan's spy agency was behind the conspiracy. The gunman was immediately arrested and police later released a video of him in custody, allegedly saying he had acted alone.

In a strongly worded statement Monday, the military accused Khan of "fabricated and malicious allegations" of its involvement in the November shooting, saying they are "extremely unfortunate, deplorable and unacceptable."

The military has directly ruled Pakistan for more than half of the 75 years since the country gained independence from British colonial rule, and wields considerable power over civilian governments.

Sharif, whose government faces spiraling economic woes and is struggling to recover from last year's devastating floods that killed hundreds and caused \$30 billion in damage, slammed Khan for assailing the military.

"Let this be abundantly clear that you, as former prime minister, currently on trial for corruption, are claiming legitimacy to overturn the legal and political system," Sharif tweeted after Khan's arrest.

In a statement, the European Union urged "restraint and cool headedness" in the country, through dialogue and the rule of law.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly both said at a news conference they were aware of reports about Khan's arrest but declined any substantive comment. □

Aruba in Canada!

(Oranjestad)—Last Thursday, Aruba Today received a special e-mail from a reader all the way in Canada. The Futa-Toppenberg family shared with us their daughter Lua's school project on foreign countries. Lua gave her presentation on Aruba, complete with a hand-made outfit inspired by the Aruban Carnival spirit and traditional snacks for the class.

Lua's father, Jamal Futa, explained to us that their daughter's school organized a Multi-Cultural Day, where they had the opportunity to present their Aruban heritage. The Multi-cultural fair of May 4th featured many countries, including India, China, Mexico, Philippines, Iran, Turkey, France, and of course Aruba.

He also shared that the

family moved to Canada to pursue further studies, career opportunities and new experiences. They have been living in Windsor since 2019.

The family had weeks to prepare for the event, and stated that they prepared 'Funchi Hasa' for the guest to try. They also made Dulce de Leche for the visitors. Jamal stated that these two were very well-received among the guests.

A lot of people were also very interested in some facts about Aruba, to which Lua provided a lot of information on. They particularly asked about the map, the native language and culture. Some guests even told the family about their recent trips to the island and asked them for more information on plan-



ning their next trip to Aruba. Lua, dressed in a hand-made two piece outfit inspired by the glitz and glamour of the Aruban Carnival spirit, participated in the Culture fashion show, which the school also organized to showcase the chil-

dren's traditional clothing of their chosen country.

Lua and her family were very excited to present the best of Aruba, as it made them feel closer to home. Aruba Today is proud to hear that our culture is be-

ing shared and spread around the world! To Lua and her family, we'd like to give congratulations and props for their hard work. Thank you for your representation and shared pride in our beautiful, rich culture! □

Aruba has yet to fix a date for the arrival of the first few cargo ships from Venezuela

(Oranjestad)—Last Sunday, bringing lemons, avocados and bananas, two cargo ships left the port of La Vela de Coro in Venezuela on their way to Curacao as part of the reactivation of commercial exchange between the ABC islands. However, Aruba has yet to receive its first few ships.

After four years of non-activity, due to the closure of the border between Aruba and Venezuela, the historic relationship of commercial exchange was reactivated, with the first few cargo ships heading straight to Curacao.

Yesterday afternoon, the prime minister of Curacao organized a welcome ceremony for the ships coming from the Latin American country in mark of the reopening

of the maritime and aerial border with Venezuela: "Prime Minister Pisas is very grateful for all the members of cabinet Pisas II, the government instances and principally, to all respective functionaries of the government that formed part of the work team in this reopening. Thank you to the Marshe Nobo Foundation and DMO for the beautiful ceremony they organized for this memorable moment," he stated on his social media platform.

In regards to Aruba, Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes assured us that "no ships have checked in yet. Between the agency here in Aruba and the cargo ships over in Venezuela, they have to work together to reach the necessary requirements. The govern-

ment of Aruba does not play a role in this process." She also assured that there is still no set date where the first few ships will dock in Aruba. On May 4th, the prime minister informed that there are strict conditions that have to be met in order to ensure good control, among other things. The cargo ships coming from Venezuela come under the responsibility and request of an agency here in Aruba. That means that no ship is permitted to arrive on the island to sell product here without proper instructions from a local agency. Crewmembers do not have visas to enter the country and so they are granted a maximum of 48 hours on the island—inside port property.

Up until now, since the reopening of the maritime border, there are no cargo ships that have arrived. There are paperwork in Venezuela and Aruba that need to be completed, so it will take some time.

"Maybe in these upcoming days we can start importing fruits and vegetables, ed-

ible products, construction material etc. at a cheaper price. This may help the

burden of the current high living cost on Aruba," the prime minister declared. □



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ORANJESTAD – Fish restaurants are everywhere, but do they serve fresh fish daily right out of the Caribbean Sea? The Grand Fish Restaurant does. This locally-owned restaurant is situated merely 5 minutes from the strip and is open as early as 11am for the lunch lovers.

The minute you step inside you can feel the homey and cozy warm ambiance by the décor and the friendly staff who will receive you with open arms.

The Grand Fish Restaurant has an extraordinary menu starting with appetizers, salads and their famous fish soup. The entree dishes consist of a variety of fresh fish like whole red snapper, fish steak, fish cake, grilled salmon, mixed

seafood or seafood rice (paella local style) combined with sides of vegetables, french fries, rice, plantain, the island's traditional 'pan bati' (slapped bread) or funchi (cornmeal cake).

Each and every dish is made with passion, love and dedication. Yes... even the fried ones!

There are also pasta, meat and poultry options plus a kid-friendly menu with crispy chicken or fish nuggets, cheese burgers, mac & cheese and kid tenderloin.

Pair your meal with your favorite drink or cocktail, a wine of your choice or a glass of The Grand Fish yummy home-made fresh lemonade.



If you haven't visited The Grand Fish yet, check out our local page for a coupon for a free glass of wine and make sure to drop by. The staff will be happy to welcome, guide and serve you for an amazing casual bite and good time.

The Grand Fish Restaurant is situated at Taratata Road 15, unit #1. Open from 11AM – 10PM from Wednesday till Monday CLOSED on Tuesdays!!!



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi All Inclusive Resort



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize a Distinguished Visitor and a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. These two visitors were respectively honored with certificates acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism

as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests whom have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years

consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitor of Aruba
Mrs. Renee Braun from Michigan, United States.

Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba
Mrs. Cardin Paidoussis from New York, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Divi All Inclusive Resort bestowed the certificates to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to both Mrs. Braun and Mrs. Paidoussis for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". We are incredibly thankful to have such

wonderful visitors who still keep choosing Aruba after so many years!

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Mrs. Braun were:
The friendliness of everyone who works at all the Divi properties
All the great friendships made over the years

"The walk I do on beach every day to admire the beautiful Aruba waters & shells"

"I brought many family & friends to Aruba"

"The warm & kind locals which made Aruba my home-away-from-home"

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Mrs. Paidoussis were:
Aruba's warm consistent weather all year round

The wonderful people of Aruba
The location where Aruba is located

Aruba's variety of activities to choose from
Aruba's nice sandy beaches

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Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour



ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered street-car operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters. The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center - it is free for all! □

beauty
& THE
★
BEACH

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Michelle, Shannon and Ben from Boston, Massachusetts**. This is their first time here and they love the sun and friendliness of the people. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

This segment is sponsored by Alhambra Casino and Shops.

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Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Building and saving heritage!

Stay in touch with the "Island-Insights" revelations regarding native Aruban ethnic heritage, upholding the island's cultural identity in each of our weekly episodes, sharing awareness and education while encouraging each reader to experience a true and authentic island state of mind.

In these times, the importance of preserving cultural heritage throughout the world is emphasized to benefit human civilization in the future.

As Aruba is an attractive tourist destination, cultural conservation and promotion will only make sense if they are economically sound, sustainable, and nature-friendly. Building and holding on to heritage through sustainable cultural tourism for our future generations must be a priority!

Building heritage describes our origins and expresses our understanding of who we are today. It helps to define a sense of place and an identity for a community and contributes to feelings of belonging and national pride.

We would like to shed light on this important issue of safeguarding Aruba's cultural heritage and raise special awareness on the importance of protecting and preserving sites in the face of threats like climate change, natural calamities, and incoherent human activities like stacking stones, writing monuments, and leaving rubbish and dirt everywhere behind.

The tourist industry on our island contributes in an important way, and since the beginning - see episode 120- it has been an attractive destination for high-quality visitors. At that time, tourism was returning more than Aruba, its environment, and its people needed. Now, Aruba is immersed in the opposite situation, and tourism has caused significant harm to the environment (both directly and indirectly). Our island needs solidarity but also to encourage responsible behavior on the part of its inhabitants and visitors as well in order to protect it, and that tourism continues to give more

than we need so that high taxes could be alleviated.

We know that cultural tourism has always been the great guardian of ancient civilizations, but we see it today as the fundamental promoter of contemporary civilizations. We must show our visitors an orderly and educated lifestyle and offer tourism activities based on preserving the historical, cultural, and environmental aspects of Aruba.

The effort to collect, preserve, and document cultural and historical value has been an extraordinary journey started decades ago by Etnia Nativa in order to collect, safeguard, and compile the Aruban heritage. A work that needs support in the face of current challenges derived from preservation, conservation, digitization, etc. that are not always accessible. Culture and heritage are facing many challenges in procuring, conserving, and making materials accessible. Changing the conditions of oral history and filed documents in order to disseminate these requires investing in capable know-how to create open-access digital platforms and portals, which is in many ways time-consuming and very costly. Other challenges include competing with institutions with larger available funds that don't see the urgency to preserve or respect local costumes against small local endeavors with limited budgets. The question of who owns nature, commerce, short-sighted politics involved in the acquisition of more personal wealth, or those committed to long-term preservation of

materials that are and may be considered national treasures. There are also perceptions about documentary heritage that, despite being outside of traditional paradigms, deserve a place in better understanding the need to incorporate information from those who take pride in maintaining private cultural heritage collections.

Aruba has a very valuable intangible cultural heritage that includes oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, and the knowledge and skills necessary to create traditional arts and crafts. It is an intangible cultural heritage, or "living heritage," that refers to the practices, expressions, knowledge, or techniques transmitted from generation to generation.

We must "prepare" Aruba for any eventuality, take care of its nature, keep public spaces and natural areas clean, drive carefully, and show respect at all times.

In this small and paradisiacal tourist destination, we are already beginning to see signs of fierce competition for visitors due to the difficult global economic conditions and the lower availability of income. A global situation that reflects how Aruba is supporting an "extra load". As a museum and cultural professional, Etnia Nativa specializes in the practice of providing historical and cultural experiences to learn about Aruba's heritage in a fun and educational way. Etnia Nativa will continue to work hard to identify, maintain, preserve, and share Aruba's records and history.

So do something off the tourist grid and visit a unique private residential museum where you can be touched by the island's authentic heritage and live out the native effect between exhibits of archaeological art, archaic artifacts, lithic tools, colonial furniture, and historical items. □

Etnia Nativa is, since 1994, the home of Anthony, our acclaimed columnist, artist craftsman and island Piache who guides and lectures you through his resplendent collection and it is the only place that recreates and introduces you to an authentic glimpse into Aruba's native cultural legacy and his colonial family's heritage dating back to 1640 when the Dutch occupation began dare to feel the true native effect, meet Anthony!

Appointment is required + 297 592 2702 or etnianativa03@gmail.com.



Sea turtle conservation by Turtugaruba Foundation

ORANJESTAD — Turtugaruba was founded on September 3rd, 2003, by a group of enthusiastic volunteers. Ten years earlier in 1993, a Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP) was introduced in Aruba and the rest of the Caribbean as an initiative of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Tom Barmes, who was working at DLVV (Department of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fishery) was one of the writers of the STRAP for Aruba, together with Karen Eckert, director of WIDECAST (Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network). This is how sea turtle conservation started on the island following a plan that is still complied with to-day.

Tom formed a group of volunteers around him like an organization such as DLVV, because nature does not know office hours. This group of volunteers used the name Widecast Aruba and today there are still a few of them active. They first started protecting the Leatherback Sea Turtle nests on Palm Beach and Eagle Beach. This group also investigated which other species of sea turtles use Aruba as their nesting habitat and which beaches are used by them. For a period of 25 years, a study has been conducted in which investigators monitored the beaches every morning to study turtle movement. Now, there is a good overview of sea turtle nesting activities.

There are 4 different species of sea turtle that visit Aruba to lay their eggs, each with their own specific season:

- Leatherback Sea Turtle - Lederschildpad - Driekiel (March – September)
- Loggerhead Sea Turtle - Dikopschildpad - Cawama (May – September)
- Hawksbill Sea Turtle - Karetschildpad - Caret (June – December)
- Green Turtle - Soepschildpad - Turtuga Blanco (July-November)

Investigators also reached a better understanding and overview of the biggest threats to the sea turtles' existence in Aruba and how these problems should be tackled. Despite the hard work all those years, most problems have not really gone away. Luckily—and thanks to the enormous efforts from the volunteers, the sea turtles are still here. On Aruba, the sea turtles are threatened with extinction by pollution, people driving ATVs on



dunes and beaches and the loss of nesting beaches due to coastal development for tourism. Because coastal development comes with artificial lighting, these can cause major issues for sea turtles. Female turtles usually come ashore at night looking for a dark beach to make her nest. However, a dark beach is hard to find here nowadays. Light causes stress and can result in her returning to the sea without laying her eggs. Furthermore, artificial lighting causes disorientation for

the baby sea turtles (hatchlings).

They crawl towards artificial light sources (like streetlights, hotel lights, etc.) and end up walking in the opposite direction towards the hotels and away from the sea. In the 90's, it was a common occurrence to find complete nests of about 70 hatchlings dead on the street due to being run over by passing cars. Thanks to their protection methods and a lot of time and effort, the volunteers of Turtugaruba have

managed to get this under control. However, for long-term prevention, there must be less light visible on the beaches and a strict regulation of it. Sea turtles simply need dark nesting beaches for their survival. It is clear that even more coastal development would not make the situation better for the sea turtles. Do we need more hotel rooms? And even busier beaches? These are the choices that Aruba has to make. Do we want to leave a place for the sea turtles? Not only do we need sea turtles, but so does the rest of the world! Sea turtles play a vital role in keeping our oceans healthy. The Green Turtle, for example, keeps the sea grasses on the bottom of the sea short and therefore a healthy place for many fish to deposit their eggs. The Leatherback, the largest turtle of the world, eats mainly jellyfish and helps maintain the balance between jellyfish and plankton.

Despite the threats that exist on Aruba, the turtles still keep coming. That's why today Turtugaruba is especially proud of the volunteers and the many people and organizations of our community that carry a warm place in their hearts for the sea turtles. All four species are active now, which means all hands on deck in the field for us, the volunteers. We strive to keep the sea turtles, our oldest 'repeat guests', always coming back to Aruba and get the chance to reproduce here. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 46 Lent a hand

1 Predica-
ment

7 Pindar
poems

11 Piled up

12 Latvia's
capital

13 Pooh's
pal

14 Pop of
music

15 Seek,
as office

17 Power
unit

20 Vigilant

23 2001
Will Smith
film

24 Predict

26 Beagle or
boxer

27 Objective

28 Kinsey
topic

29 Spreads,
as a
sleeping
bag

31 Green of
"Casino
Royale"

32 Small
sounds

33 Calls on

34 Ignores
the limit

37 Too

39 Big-billed
bird

43 Foot
features

44 Painter
Monet

45 Artist's
inspiration

DOWN

1 That ship

2 Semi-
circular
shape

3 Beam of
light

4 Left on
a liner

5 Llama's
land

6 Adam's
home

7 Baltimore
player

8 Goes off
on a
tangent

9 Easter
quest

10 Put into
words

16 Rural busi-
nesses

H	E	A	T	S	T	E	S	T	S
O	X	B	O	W	I	G	L	O	O
O	P	E	N	E	D	D	O	O	R
D	O	T	D	A	Y	W	O	O	
			F	E	D	U	P		
J	A	P	A	N	P	I	P	E	S
A	T	O	Z			V	O	L	T
M	E	T	E	R	C	O	M	F	Y
			D	E	P	O	T		
A	S	S	C	A	B	I	O	U	
C	L	O	S	E	D	R	A	N	K
M	I	N	U	S	A	D	O	R	E
E	D	G	E	S	S	O	N	A	R

Yesterday's answer

17 Crumple

18 Detached

19 Fierce
females

21 "Super-
man"
star

22 Michener
book

24 Un-
faithful

25 Pipeline
flow

30 Go
against

33 Routine

35 Engrave

36 Portion
(out)

37 Money
machine

38 Singer
Reed

40 Trophy

41 Sports
drink
suffix

42 Homer's
neighbor

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						2			
13						4			
			15			16			
17	18	9				20		21	22
23				24	25				
26				27				28	
29			30					31	
32						33			
		34			35	36			
37	38				39			40	41
43					44				
45					46				

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-10 CRYPTOQUOTE

IQ WQQN JQLEZ EP GQQ DQIW

FIN IQ CFN JQLEZ EP PVQTG

ZIQRWV. — TQWZT ZCZTG

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LOOKING BACK, MY LIFE SEEMS LIKE ONE LONG OBSTACLE RACE, WITH ME AS THE CHIEF OBSTACLE. — JACK PAAR

Tempur Sealy to buy Mattress Firm in \$4 billion deal

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bed-

ding provider Tempur Sealy has agreed to acquire Mattress Firm in a cash-and-stock-transaction valued at about \$4 billion, the companies said Tuesday.

Mattress Firm operates more than 2,300 brick-and-mortar retail locations and an e-commerce platform. After the Tempur Sealy acquisition is complete, the two companies will have a total of some 3,000 retail stores, 30 e-commerce platforms, 71 manufacturing facilities and four research and development facilities worldwide.

"This combination will accelerate our growth trajectory and enhance operating cash flow," Tempur Sealy Chairman and CEO Scott Thompson said in a statement. "Mattress Firm has been a valued retail partner for more than 35 years, and we look forward to welcoming their talented workforce of more than 8,100 employees to the Tempur Sealy family."

Mattress Firm CEO John Eck added that the transaction will increase the companies' ability "to better address consumers' needs and drive growth."

Tempur Sealy will pay about \$2.7 billion in cash and \$1.3 billion in stock to Mattress Firm, which is partially owned by Steinhoff International Holdings NV. That reflects the issuance of 34.2 million common shares, based on Monday's closing share price of \$37.62.

After the transaction is complete, Mattress Firm



A Mattress Firm store location has an open sign in a window, Tuesday, May 9, 2023, in Dedham, Mass.

Associated Press

shareholders will own about 16.6% of the combined company and Tempur Sealy shareholders will own the rest.

The companies expect to complete the transaction in the second half of 2024. After the acquisition is complete, Mattress Firm is set to operate as a separate business unit within Tempur Sealy.

Tempur Sealy received a request from the Federal Trade Commission for additional information and documents related to the transaction. The company plans to "work cooperatively" with the FTC to complete the acquisition.

Piper Sandler said in a note Tuesday the prospect of Tempur Sealy acquiring Mattress Firm "has been discussed for many, many months within the industry." The investment banking and research firm expects a long FTC review process, noting that the transaction marks a "seismic deal for the mattress industry."

Neil Saunders, managing director of data analytics company GlobalData, said selling Mattress Firm has

been a "priority" for Steinhoff as the parent company looks to pay down debt. Saunders added that the deal will allow Tempur Sealy to expand its distribution and reach more consumers at a crucial time for increasing sales.

"Tempur Sealy will also hope that Mattress Firm helps them to buck the current slowdown in sales which is being caused by the cost-of-living crisis and many households having upgraded their mattresses during the pandemic," Saunders said.

But the full impact of the acquisition is still unknown. Saunders points to the high purchase price and other challenges retailers like Mattress Firm face today including the disruption from a "raft of specialist new entrants to the market, most of which sell directly to consumers" and "pressure from the expansion of home players like IKEA." While Mattress Firm and Tempur Sealy have a long history as retail partners, the two have had a rocky relationship in recent years. □

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1 BR WK # 19 room # 1234 \$3,6 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1329 \$4,5 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1426 \$4,5 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1428 \$4,5 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1432 \$4,5 K
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Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Comedian Hannah Gadsby returns with a stand-up 'love letter'

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Hannah Gadsby's new Netflix special illustrates a different side of the comedian that fans may not expect — a happier one.

"It's a lighter show," Gadsby tells The Associated Press ahead of "Something Special" airing on Tuesday. "It's more positive. It's expressing a happiness I don't think I had done in earlier Netflix specials."

The comedian kicks it off with good news "I got married. I know! It's nice" and then promises viewers a change of pace from previous sets: "This is going to be a feel-good show because I believe I owe you one."

Gadsby, who uses the pronoun they, is in many ways going back to the style of comedy they employed before exploding to fame with the special "Nanette" in 2018, which had deeply affecting stories of violence, homophobia, misogyny and shame.

"It's much more difficult to do comedy around a positive theme. Nobody is really that pleased watching someone be happy," they said. "It's a real risky show. I'd say this is riskier than 'Nanette.'"

The new hourlong stand-up special recorded at the Sydney Opera house in Australia explores marriage, sudden fame, parenting styles, cultural differences and life with autism.



Australian comedian Hannah Gadsby poses for a portrait in Los Angeles on Dec. 10, 2018.

Associated Press

"In every one of my shows, I'm always talking about where I am a particular moment in my life," they say in the interview. "I really want people to not know what I will do next, because therefore I am not under the pressure of delivering something."

Asked if they're a little like Adele albums, in that they preserve a moment in time, Gadsby laughs. "Yeah, I'm much better at being happier than she is. That's a little joke."

It's still a typically Gadsby set, with personal observations and sudden quick-thrust political critiques, culminating in a climax at the end in which they draw

together many of the jokes that have been talked about.

If there is a motif this time, it is rabbits.

The critters are part of two tent-pole stories, one involving an ex-girlfriend and another their wife. Paper bunnies decorate the stage.

Gadsby calls it a "love letter" to their wife, Jenney Shamash, an American producer.

Their relationship deepened during the pandemic, and Shamash now lives in Australia with Gadsby and their two dogs, Douglas and Jasper.

"Part of what I like to do on stage is I want other

people to love what I love. For someone on the spectrum, it can be really lonely," Gadsby says. "It's only been in recent years that I've learned how to make lasting connections through the diagnosis and confidence and things like that. So I thought that was worth sharing."

In one section, Gadsby admits they were ill-prepared for fame, illustrated by a story of giving a very non-diplomatic reaction to getting a birthday gift from Jodie Foster.

Of fame onstage, Gadsby says: "Don't expect it, that's gross. But just on the off chance you find yourself famous, you'd better

be prepared. Because I wasn't and I made a dog's breakfast of it."

Gadsby is one of those people who doesn't believe suffering is needed to make good art and notes they don't need to generate any more since there's plenty to mine from their past.

"Something Special" builds from "Douglas," where Gadsby revealed their diagnosis of high-functioning autism. The new show gives viewers a glimpse of how Gadsby sometimes misunderstands social queues and intentions.

Asked in the interview, they say the diagnosis has been freeing, in a way. It means Gadsby doesn't worry about understanding everything, conserves more energy and offers a bit more control.

"Understanding it has helped. It has given me the confidence to understand my framing of things, which I think has made writing easier," they say. "Now I feel like I have a lot more control."

I'm not scrambling to be normal anymore, whatever that means."

Fans who adore Gadsby's revolutionary take on art history a large portion of "Nanette" called out the inexcusable behavior of art's most towering figures like Pablo Picasso — will find more of that at an exhibition they organized at the Brooklyn Museum this summer. □

Amazon films, series to get wider distribution via licensing

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon said Monday it will distribute its original films and TV shows, like "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," to media outlets outside its Prime Video service for the first time.

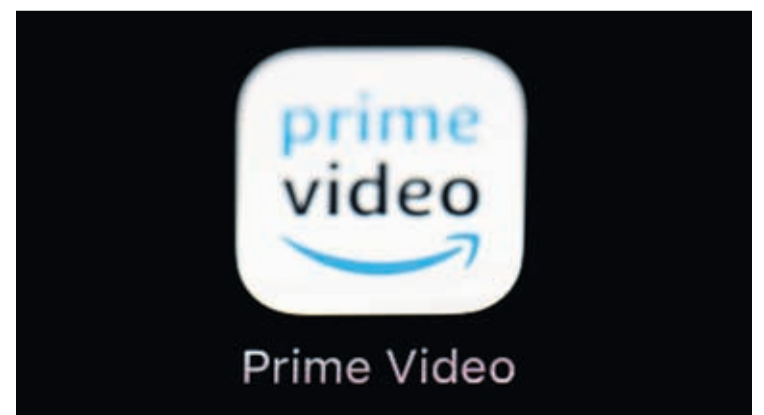
The works will be licensed via a new unit called Amazon MGM Studios Distribution, which expands the number of titles currently offered by Hollywood studio MGM. Last year, the e-commerce-behemoth-turned-media-giant closed

its acquisition of MGM which houses more than 4,000 film titles and 17,000 TV episodes for \$8.5 billion. At launch, the new division will offer several series and films including "Coming 2 America" and "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm," Amazon said. The unit will be led by Chris Ottinger, the head of distribution at MGM, who will continue to oversee distribution of MGM's new releases and film franchises, such as the James Bond

and Rocky series.

"With the integration of MGM, we wanted to take advantage of the existing team to expand our business in ways that will greatly benefit our customers around the world," Jen Salke, who heads up Amazon and MGM Studios, said in a prepared statement.

Last week, Amazon said it would add more than 100 Amazon Originals to its free, ad-supported streaming service Freevee. □



Amazon's Prime Video streaming app is seen on an iPad, March 19, 2018, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

Gambling's place in campus culture portends scandals to come

By **ERIC OLSON**
AP Sports Writer

With the proliferation of legal wagering in the United States the past five years, it wasn't a question of if but when a college sports gambling scandal would become public.

Two have come to light in the past week, the first at Alabama involving its head baseball coach and then an investigation of Iowa and Iowa State athletes participating in online gambling.

"This is probably just the tip of the iceberg," Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling, said Tuesday. "In surveys, the athletes self-report a high rate of gambling participation and sports betting. It wouldn't surprise us if there's more problems that surface."

East Carolina assistant professor Michelle L. Malkin, who researches ties between gambling and criminality, said placing sports bets has become a part of college culture, more so since the U.S. Supreme Court in 2018 cleared the way for states to legalize sports wagering.

"We can't think our student-athletes would be acting any different than their friends and peers who



Alabama head coach Brad Bohannon, left, argues with umpire Joe Harris after being tossed from an NCAA college baseball game in the bottom of the second inning against LSU, Saturday, April 29, 2023, in Baton Rouge, La.

are engaged in similar activity that's been normalized through this mass expansion of legalized gambling," Malkin said.

NCAA rules prohibit athletes, coaches and staff from betting on sports in which the NCAA conducts a championship. For example, athletes aren't allowed to bet on NFL games even if state laws would legally allow them to do so. It is il-

legal for a person under 21 to wager on sports in Iowa and most of the other 32 states where legal sportsbooks are now operating. The most recent NCAA study on college wagering, in 2016, found that 24% of male athletes reported violating NCAA rules within the previous year by wagering on sports for money; 9% reported they had bet on sports at least once a

month. About 5% of female athletes reported wagering on sports in the previous year.

The NCAA had planned to conduct a study of athlete gambling habits in 2020, but it was suspended due to the pandemic, spokeswoman Michelle Hosick wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

"Understanding the impact that the gaming industry's

multi-billion dollar ad campaigns may have on student-athletes is a top priority for the NCAA," she said. Hosick said new NCAA president Charlie Baker has requested a new survey be done as soon as possible.

Whyte and Malkin both said anecdotal evidence suggests the rate of gambling by college athletes is much higher than the one-in-four reported in 2016.

Whyte said it's common for teenage boys to tell him they have apps on their phones for daily fantasy sports games or off-shore sportsbook accounts where age verification is easy to get around.

"When they say they're betting sports, it doesn't always mean they're betting with a legal, regulated operator," Whyte said.

EPIC Risk Management, based in the United Kingdom, began a five-year contract with the NCAA last year to provide what was described as a "customized sports wagering gambling harm prevention program."

The NCAA said more than 10,000 athletes and administrators attended in-person programming last year.

What triggered the investigations at Iowa and Iowa State has not been disclosed. □

Matthews takes Giro 3rd stage, Evenepoel keeps lead

MELFI, Italy (AP) — Michael Matthews won a wet and long third stage of the Giro d'Italia on Monday while pre-race favorite Remco Evenepoel extended his overall lead. Matthews, who rides for Team Jayco-AlUla, edged out Mads Pedersen and Kaden Groves in a bunch sprint on the final kick up to the line. It was the Australian cyclist's third Giro stage win and a first since 2015.

"They (his team) were fully committed for me to win the stage," Matthews said. "It's been such a roller coaster this year. Now already on stage three with a stage win. That's more than

I could ever dream of.

"I heard that Pedersen was dropped on the climb so I was hoping he would be a little bit pinned for the sprint. I just knew I needed to go a bit early, get the jump on them, and it worked out."

The drizzle, especially on the second half of the 213-kilometer (132-mile) route south from Vasto to Melfi, caused several crashes but nothing that appeared too serious. Evenepoel finished safely in the peloton and gained bonus seconds in the intermediate sprint edging Primož Roglič to extend his lead to 32 seconds over João Almeida, who moved into second despite

being involved in a crash.

"We were just there, we wanted to take the downhill in the first positions because the rain made the roads wet and tricky," said Evenepoel, who rides for Soudal Quick-Step.

"If the seconds are there to grab, we should not be afraid to grab them. One more second on Primož and three on the rest is good, especially after quite an easy day and a hectic final." Evenepoel has worn the pink jersey since storming to victory in the opening time trial on Saturday.

Roglič, who is considered Evenepoel's strongest challenger, moved up to third

but was still 44 seconds behind the Belgian. The stage was one of the longest and

flattest of the Giro, along with two categorized climbs towards the end. □



Australia's Michael Matthews crosses the finish line to win the third stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race from Vasto to Melfi, Italy, Monday, May 8, 2023.

Associated Press

Lee Westwood chose money and his European tour fate

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

Lee Westwood has every reason to be sad about the end of his European tour career.

Westwood once relished the memory of playing 20 tournaments in a row on the European tour schedule until he finally won his first career title in the Volvo Scandinavian Masters. Was he determined to keep playing until he won?

"No," he said with a laugh. "I kept playing because I was 23."

Not since Colin Montgomerie has a European player of that stature stayed true to his roots. The 50-year-old from England played at least 12 times in 28 consecutive seasons on the European tour, no small task considering seven of those years he also played the minimum 15 events to be a PGA Tour member.

"I wouldn't change those years for the world and feel I made a contribution to the tour," Westwood told The Daily Telegraph in an extensive interview.

Stats don't lie. He played 590 tournaments on the European tour. He won 25 times across four decades. He captured the Order of Merit three times, the last one at age 47.

"So no, I never would have believed it had ended like this," he said, "and there has to be a bit of sadness, of course."

There also must be the harsh realization that he did



Lee Westwood hits his shot from the 16th tee during the second round of LIV Golf Singapore at the Sentosa Golf Club on Sentosa Island in Singapore on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

Associated Press

this to himself.

He was free to choose, and Westwood chose instant riches from Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund to play in a rival league that threatened the very tour to which he had been loyal all these years.

That can't be overlooked. There has to be consequences. He should have known that, even if LIV Golf CEO Greg Norman told players they could have it both ways.

Remember, it was Norman who said in a text to Sergio Garcia some 15 months ago about the PGA Tour: "They cannot ban you for one day let alone life. It is a shallow threat."

Ahem.

Westwood, Garcia and Ian Poulter were the most prominent players to resign from the European tour last week, a month after a U.K. arbitration panel ruled that players who signed with LIV Golf committed serious breaches and the tour had every right to punish them. All but Garcia has paid the fine of 100,000 pounds (\$125,000) for playing in LIV's debut outside London last June. Still unclear is whether the Saudi-run league, which pledged to pay legal fees, also paid the fines.

LIV has always been about the money, whether it's coming or going.

More resignations are certain to follow. Those three

stand out because of their Ryder Cup pedigree, and that might be the biggest blow to Europe. None of them was likely to be in Rome this fall to try to extend a European winning streak on home soil that dates to 1997, but Europe loses a level of experience that can't soon be replaced.

Keith Pelley, the CEO of the European tour, had no alternative. He has to answer to the dozens of players who chose not to chase free money. This was no time to forgive and forget. Pelley made it clear he wasn't going to ban anyone that was the tact of PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan but it would

cost them a hefty price to return.

Westwood says no one told him the extent of the punishment. Would that have mattered? The Saudis were offering more than he made in his sterling career, along with a \$20 million prize fund every time he played. At his age with declining skills, that's hard to turn down.

"As a European tour member, I was allowed to be a member of the PGA Tour without any problem for all those years," Westwood told The Telegraph. "Tell me, what is the difference? Just because LIV is funded by the Saudis a country where my tour used to play and where we were encouraged to play?"

This is where Westwood is mistaken. The difference is LIV was not an "additive," as Norman likes to say. It was a threat, a commercial challenge, a disruptor. Norman talked about free agency finally coming to golf, which is hogwash. Even a federal judge in California during one of the early rulings concluded LIV was more restrictive than the PGA Tour.

Westwood has been at heart of European golf for the last 30 years, and his contributions should not be forgotten. No one begrudges him chasing a stupid amount of money at this stage in his life. Ditto for all the others in the twilight or beyond of their careers. □



Memphis Grizzlies forward Jaren Jackson Jr. reacts during the second half of Game 5 of the team's first-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

Jackson, Holiday, Lopez headline NBA All-Defensive Team

NEW YORK (AP) — Defensive Player of the Year Jaren Jackson Jr. of Memphis and Milwaukee's Jrue Holiday and Brook Lopez headlined the NBA's All-Defensive team Tuesday.

Also voted to the first team were Cleveland forward Evan Mobley and Chicago guard Alex Caruso.

Jackson, the NBA leader with 3.0 blocked shots per game, received 96 of 100 first-team votes and finished with 195 points for his second All-Defensive team selection. Holiday was just behind him with 94 first-team votes and 192 points, earning a fifth career selection (three firsts, two seconds.)

Lopez, the runner-up to Jackson for Defensive Player of the Year, had 185 points and 85 first-team votes.

Boston guard Derrick White topped the second team, followed by eight-time All-Defensive selection Draymond Green of Golden State. Toronto's O.G. Anunoby, Dillon Brooks of Memphis and Bam Adebayo of Miami rounded out the team. □